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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 17 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 8 and 15 November 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 8-15 November 1999

1. In the northern region 48 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1135 hours on 8 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Amadiyah and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1425 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1220 hours on 9 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1528 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1110 hours on 14 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Irbil, Mosul, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Dohuk areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1240 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 452 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0625 hours on 8 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions from Saudi territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Basrah, Samawah, Taqtaqanah, Afak, Salman, Qurnah, Busayyah, Shinafiyah, Ushbayjah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1000 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0840 hours on 9 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 61 missions from Saudi territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Salman, Amarah, Najaf South, Hayy, Artawi and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1020 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0930 hours on 11 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft, as well as a remotely piloted aircraft, coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 75 missions, 55 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS aircraft and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Basrah, Afak, Hashimiyah South, Diwaniyah, Hayy, Ali al-Gharbi, Razzazah Lake, Jassan, Aziziyah South, Nu'maniyah, Taqtaqanah and Ukhaydir areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1730 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0805 hours on 12 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 138 missions, 100 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft and 38 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Amarah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Abu Sukhayr, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Ushbayjah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1617 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0930 hours on 13 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 98 missions, 70 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 28 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ushbayjah, Busayyah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Salman, Shatrah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Chabaish, Qurnah, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Diwaniyah, Afak, Najaf, Nu'maniyah and Kut areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1955 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0930 hours on 14 November 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 missions, 30 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. The overflew the Artawi, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah, Jalibah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1055 hours, drove them off.

3. The Kuwaiti side engaged in actions that are in breach of the ceasefire when, at 1200 hours on 22 October 1999, four vehicles, three Landcruisers and a pick-up truck mounting a medium machine-gun, were seen in the demilitarized zone at coordinates 527125 (1:100,000 map of Batin).

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